

Ser. No. 10/733,510

Remarks

Claims 1 and 3-9 and 12-30 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 21, 24, and 29 were rejected. Claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 19, and 30 were merely objected to and claims 12-18, 20, 22, 23, and 25-28 were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, no claims are canceled, claims 8, 16, 19, and 21 are amended, and claim 31 is added. No new matter is presented.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12-20, 22, 23, and 25-30.

Claim Rejections/Obections-35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 8 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112(2) for an informality noted in claim 8. This has been corrected in claims 8 and 16.

Claim 19 was objected to for an incorrect dependency. This has been corrected.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 4, 7, 21, and 24 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Adams. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Adams discloses a water heater having a flue connector 63. The connector is identified as having a circumferential lip 69 joining the base 71 of an annular chamber 67. A single "flue outlet 75" is positioned along the perimeter of the collector 63. The Office action asserted that Adams has:

a body having a first face (front of 63), a second face (back of 69), an inboard surface (79) bounding a central opening, an outboard perimeter (69), an array of bolt holes (73) between the first and second face, a channel (67) in the first face inboard of the bolt holes, ports (75) formed in the perimeter and not in the inboard surface and other ports (opposite of element 53)...

Office action, page 3, second paragraph.

As noted above, Adams has but a single outlet 75. If this single outlet is treated as one of the claimed ports, Adams lacks the second claimed port. The "opposite of element 53"

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identification in the Office action merely re-identifies the asserted channel (annular chamber 67). This is clearly seen in Figure 2. Accordingly, Adams cannot anticipate claims 1, 4, 7, 21, and 24. Claim 4 identifies both ports as being in the perimeter.

The second asserted port (redundant with chamber 67 as noted above) is not in the perimeter but in the first face. Thus, claims 4 and 21 further cannot be anticipated.

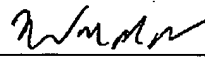
Claim 24 further identifies a flow of liquid entering the first port and exiting the second port and cooling the body. No cooling is identified in Adams. Clearly, the flow of FIG. 2 would indicate a heating.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Boyd et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Boyd et al. discloses a package bearing with lubrication ports. The Office action identified the Boyd et al. "radial inner surface 34" (col. 4, line 58) as the claimed channel and "the secondary lubrication ports 56" (col. 4, lines 66-67) as the first and second ports. The surface 34, however, cannot be asserted as a channel in the first face. It is, appropriately the inboard surface or a portion thereof and not a channel in a face. Thus, Boyd et al. does not anticipate or render unpatentable claims 1 and 7. New claim 31 identifies the channel as between the inboard surface and the outboard perimeter further distinguishing Boyd et al.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 3-9, and 12-31 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
William B. Slate
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 37,238

Telephone: 203-777-6628
Telefax: 203-865-0297

Date: August 16, 2005

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